

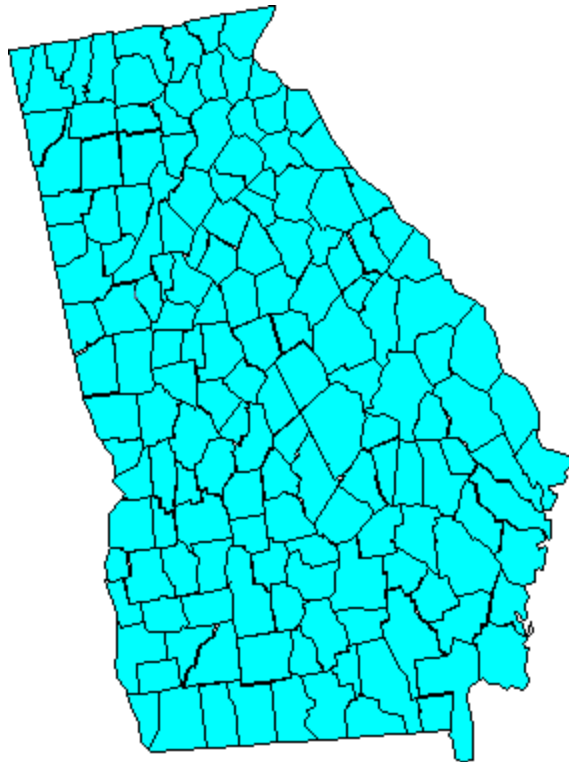
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Georgia

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Georgia

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 7,642,207 (1998 estimate); 6,478,216 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (1990): 71% White; 25% Black; 2% Hispanic; .2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 1.2% Asian or Pacific Islander; .6% Other

Politics²

- Governor: Roy E. Barnes
- Lt. Governor: Mark Taylor
- Attorney General: Thurbert E. Baker
- U.S. Senate: Max Cleland (D), Paul Coverdell (R)
- U.S. Representatives (District): Jack Kingston (1), Sanford D. Bishop, Jr (2), Mac Collins (3), Cynthia McKinney (4), John Lewis (5), Johnny Isakson (6), Bob Barr (7), Saxby Chambliss (8), Nathan Deal (9), Charlie Norwood (10), John Linder (11).

Programs/Initiatives

- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):³
 - \$100,000 to Cobb Community Collaborative, Inc. of Marietta
 - \$99,999 to the Dekalb Prevention Alliance, Inc. of Decatur
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁴
 - Atlanta has been funded as an original Weed and Seed site since 1992. There are now three target areas included in Atlanta's Weed and Seed program. Two of the areas are public housing developments and the third is made up of single family homes that surround a public housing community. The Atlanta Weed and Seed has also received funding as a Weed and Seed training site and has developed training models consisting of law enforcement and community policing components. As a training site, Atlanta has also agreed to serve as a mentor to other sites.
 - Augusta: The designated area for the Augusta Weed and Seed program is Barton Village, a neighborhood where illegal drugs are bought and sold, where residents fear for their safety, and where local police presence is limited. Income levels are lower and poverty rates are higher in Barton Village than in the city as a whole. The Augusta Weed and Seed Program is taking steps to encounter these problems by establishing a drug hotline for residents to call, by setting up a computer program to track criminal activity, by conducting periodic drug sweeps, and by committing to add six more Sheriff's Deputies to patrol the neighborhood.
 - The following locations also serve as Weed and Seed sites in Georgia: Athens, Savannah, and Valdosta.

- The Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) was designated in 1995 and serves the City of Atlanta and Fulton and DeKalb Counties. This HIDTA will undertake initiatives using technology and investigative methods with the goal of disrupting violent drug trafficking organizations. Atlanta is a consumer of and a major transshipment center for cocaine, crack, heroin, marijuana, and other dangerous drugs. Atlanta has also joined the ranks of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles in regards to organized gang activity.⁵

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 1998, there were 26,053 arrests for drug abuse violations in Georgia.⁶

Arrests in Georgia, 1998

Offense	Juveniles	Total
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	15	185
Forcible rape	39	276
Robbery	222	1,637
Aggravated Assault	703	7,349
Burglary	875	3,751
Larceny-theft	3,732	16,734
Motor vehicle theft	547	1,916
Arson	52	225
Drug abuse violations	2,388	26,053
Driving Under the Influence	281	20,414
Liquor Laws	800	5,996

- During 1999, 76.7% of adult male arrestees and 77.2% of female arrestees in Atlanta tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest.⁷
- 95.5% of the females arrested for drug offenses tested positive for drugs, and 92.3% of the females arrested for prostitution tested positive at the time of their arrest.⁸

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drug Use, Atlanta, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Metham		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	42.4	49.2	47.5	39.7	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	70.0	69.8
Property	61.5	47.4	42.2	34.7	0.4	2.1	0.0	0.0	80.7	68.4
Drug	54.6	71.2	53.1	48.5	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	85.0	95.5
Prostitution	48.8	87.7	34.1	24.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	70.7	92.3
Other	47.1	59.3	42.5	33.9	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.0	74.5	72.9

Drugs⁹

- Cocaine and Crack

According to the DEA, Atlanta continues to serve as a major transshipment and distribution point for cocaine HCl and crack. In addition to smoking crack, injecting cocaine has become a frequently reported route of administration. The greater availability of cocaine HCl has brought about this increase in injection mentions. This

has also brought about an increase in intranasal cocaine use, especially among middle-class, suburban residents. Even though a large percentage of cocaine HCl is converted into crack, there still remains a great amount of HCl in Atlanta. Many mid-level dealers are recruiting youth to sell crack or act as drug carriers for them because of the stiff sentences for crack cocaine violations.

➤ Heroin

According to ethnographic information from Atlanta, while the long time users continue to inject heroin, the newer users are more likely to snort or smoke it and use it to cope with the negative effects of crack use. Reports by law enforcement officials have shown that heroin is often sold at crack houses for this purpose. There is also information that shows that rave participants may be taking heroin mistakenly by being told that it is Ketamine or MDMA/Ecstasy. According to the DEA, heroin arrests are on the rise in Atlanta.

➤ Marijuana/Hashish

According to the DEA, marijuana use remains prevalent across Georgia and is increasingly being reported among young users in the metropolitan areas. The trafficking patterns used for marijuana have shifted from coastal marine and air smuggling to domestic interstate shipments. According to the DEA, there is an increase in the amount of growers who use complex in-door hydroponic means to process their marijuana. The marijuana that is produced in this way is considered to be of a higher grade and can, therefore, be sold at a higher price.

➤ Other Drugs

- Methamphetamine users are predominately white middle-class teens and young adults. Methamphetamine and MDMA/Ecstasy are often sold in Atlanta's suburbs and clubs. "Herbal ecstasy" is also being increasingly used in the Atlanta area, especially at clubs.
- There is an increasing number of weekend-long parties taking place in Atlanta that involve drug use. Party participants often take a combination of drugs to try to get the high that they want while at the same time also being able to sleep when they want. The drugs involved are often the stimulants MDMA and crystal methamphetamine, and the depressants Ketamine, GHB, and Diazepam.
- Besides being used at parties, GHB has also become popular as a synthetic steroid and is commonly used at gyms in the Atlanta area.
- According to the DEA, LSD use is escalating among suburban middle-class teens and young adults.

Consequences of Use¹⁰

- There were 5,980 cocaine Emergency Department (ED) mentions in Atlanta in 1998.

Estimated Number of ED Mentions by Drug, Atlanta, 1997-98

Cocaine		Heroin/ Morphine		Marijuana/ Hashish		Methamphet- amine/Speed	
1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
4,244	5,980	400	483	1,578	2,633	214	162

- Cocaine ranked as the top drug mentioned in drug-related Medical Examiner (ME) cases in Atlanta in 1998. Approximately 68%, or 166, of these drug-related cases involved cocaine.¹¹

Juveniles¹²

- A 1998 survey of 17,037 10th grade students conducted by the Georgia Department of Education showed that 7.3% of those surveyed admitted any drug other than prescribed medication 1-6 times per month.

Percentage of Students Surveyed Reporting Use or Non-Use of Drugs/Alcohol, 1998

Drug Used	Never Used	Used 1-6 Times Per Year	Current Use	
			Used 1-2 Times/Month	Used 1-6 Times/Month
Marijuana	74.0	12.4	6.8	6.8
Other Illegal Drugs	91.8	4.8	1.9	1.5
Inhalants	91.8	6.3	1.5	1.3
Any Drug	71.8	13.7	7.2	7.3
Alcohol	40.2	31.8	18.4	9.5

Trafficking and Seizures

- Federal agencies seized 21 methamphetamine labs in Georgia during 1999. The year before, they had seized 3 labs.¹³
- The total number of methamphetamine labs that have been seized and destroyed by Federal and non-Federal agencies in Atlanta since 1995 has dramatically increased. In 1995 only six labs were seized, and in 1996 seven labs were seized and destroyed. This number jumped to 42 labs in 1997.¹⁴
- In 1998, there were a total of 27,896 marijuana plants eradicated in Georgia.¹⁵

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized in Georgia, 1998

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
934	27,038	28	858	27,896

Enforcement

- The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Drug Enforcement Investigative Division consists of various offices and task forces that are responsible for enforcing drug laws.¹⁶
 - There are three Regional Drug Enforcement Offices that investigate major drug cases such as trafficking, smuggling, clandestine labs and major drug distribution organizations. These offices are found in Savannah, Macon and Gainesville, Georgia.
 - There are 13 Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces that are supervised by GBI personnel.

- The Governor's Task Force on Drug Suppression (GTF) combats the growth of domestic marijuana on a statewide basis. GTF marijuana eradication efforts focus on outdoor plots from April to October and indoor operations all year round.
- As of October 31, 1998 Georgia had 2,869 full-time State law enforcement employees. 1,155 of these were Department of Public Safety officers, and the remaining were employed in other State agencies.¹⁷

Courts

- In FY 1998, 40.1% of the total offenders sentenced in Georgia courts for a Federal offense had committed drug violations.¹⁸

Federal Offenders Sentenced for Drugs, U.S. and Georgia, By Drug Type, FY 1998

	United States		Georgia	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Powder Cocaine	4,737	23.4	122	23.3
Crack Cocaine	4,833	23.9	184	35.2
Heroin	1,807	8.9	20	3.8
Marijuana	6,061	30.0	107	20.4
Methamphetamine	2,308	11.4	73	13.9
Other	418	2.0	16	3.0
Total Sentenced for Drugs	--	40.2	--	40.1

- As of March 31, 2000 there were 8 drug courts in Georgia that were either already in existence or were being planned. Three of these courts have been operating for over 2 years (Macon, Bibb County; Marietta, Cobb County; and Atlanta, Fulton County), three have recently been implemented (Woodbine, Camden County; Brunswick, Glynn County; and Covington, Newton County), and two are being planned in Muscogee County (Columbus and Cuthbert).¹⁹

Corrections

- At midyear 1999 (June 30), there were 41,665 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Georgia.²⁰
- 57% of all inmates in the Georgia prison system in 1997 were diagnosed with a drug problem and 33% were diagnosed as having an alcohol problem.²¹
- At the end of 1998 (December 31), there were 151,865 adults on probation in Georgia. At this same time, there were 20,482 adults on parole. Georgia ranks as one of the top ten states having the highest probation and parole populations.²²

Treatment²³

- Among drug users admitted into treatment during the second semester of 1997, 57.5% reported that cocaine was their primary drug of use. Of these cocaine admissions, 60.8% were male, and most (76.4%) were African-American. More than 90% of cocaine treatment clients were aged 26 or older.
- In the second half of 1997, 5.2% of all treatment admissions were for heroin treatment. This number is an increase over the 3.5% in the second half of 1996. 66.7% of these admissions were male, and unlike cocaine admissions, whites

accounted for the majority of heroin treatment admissions (57.0%). Slightly more than half of the clients admitted for heroin treatment were aged 35 or older (50.7%) in 1997.

- In second half 1996, 10.2% of drug treatment admissions mentioned marijuana. This number increased to 14.8% in second half 1997. 74.8% of the clients admitted for marijuana use were males and 52.2% were white. Unlike cocaine and heroin, the majority of users (41.7%) fell into the 18-25 age group.
- 98.7% of stimulant treatment admissions for drugs such as methamphetamine or MDMA were for whites. There was not any particular age group that stood out as being treated for stimulants than others.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Georgia Homepage: <http://www.state.ga.us/>

³ Drug-Free Communities Grantees: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html>

⁴ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org/siteinfo.asp>

⁵ Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/atlan-main.html>

⁶ FBI, *Uniform Crime Reports*, 1998, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>

⁷ National Institute of Justice, *1999 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, July 2000: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999, <http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>

¹⁰ Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Year-End 1998 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)*, December 1999, <http://www.samhsa.gov/OAS/DAWN/98yr-end-rev04.pdf>

¹¹ Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998*, March 2000, <http://www.samhsa.gov/OAS/DAWN/98Annual-ME.pdf>

¹² Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, *1999 Statewide Strategy Update: State of Georgia, Drug and Violent Crime Control*, December 17, 1998.

¹³ ONDCP, *National Drug Control Strategy: 2000 Annual Report*, 2000: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

¹⁴ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999, <http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>

¹⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1998*, 1999, <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/1995/pdft439.pdf>

¹⁶ Georgia Bureau of Investigation Drug Enforcement Investigative Division, <http://www.ganet.org/gbi/idenforce.html>

¹⁷ FBI, *Uniform Crime Reports*, 1998, October 1999, <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>

¹⁸ U.S. Sentencing Commission: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/ga98.pdf>

¹⁹ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000

²⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*, April 2000: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

²¹ Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, *1999 Statewide Strategy Update: State of Georgia, Drug and Violent Crime Control*, December 17, 1998

²² Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States*, 1998, August 1999: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

²³ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999, <http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>

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